



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 20, 2025

Re: Accepting SFY 2026 Missouri Blue Shield Grant Award

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept and sign the SFY 2026 Missouri Blue Shield Grant Program (MBSGP) Award. This funding will be used to purchase protective equipment for the Police Department.

Discussion

In May 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution R75-25, officially designating Columbia as a *Missouri Blue Shield City*. This designation, established under Executive Order 25-03 as part of the Governor's Safer Missouri Initiative, enables the City to access state grant funding for law enforcement training and equipment enhancements.

In September 2025 the state announced that \$50,000 in grant funding was available to the City of Columbia. An application for grant award was submitted and has been approved. The performance period for this award will run from October 1, 2025, through May 15, 2026.

The Columbia Police Department intends to utilize these funds to purchase ballistic shields for patrol vehicles. This would allow 30% of our patrol vehicles to have ballistic shield capability. This investment will strengthen officer safety by creating a layered protection model, enabling frontline personnel to approach high-risk situations with greater confidence, safeguard civilians more effectively, and reduce the likelihood of force escalation.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None – this funding was included in the FY26 operating budget.

Long-Term Impact: No anticipated cost beyond year 2.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
5/19/25	R75-25: Resolution for MO Blue Shield City Designation

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends passage of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept the SFY 2026 Missouri Blue Shield Grant Award in the amount of \$50,000 to be used to purchase protective equipment for the Columbia Police Department.